



What You Should Know About Your

DIGITAL

Mammogram

An Ally in the **Fight Against** Breast Cancer

Breast Cancer will affect an average of one in eight women sometime in their lifetime. According to the American Cancer Society, breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in women between the ages of 15 and 54, and the second cause of cancer death in women 55 to 74. Fortunately, 96 percent of women who find and treat breast cancer early will be cancer-free after five years. Numerous studies prove that early detection is a vital component in the successful treatment of breast cancer.

Mammograms play a central part in the early detection of breast cancer because they can detect changes in the breast that may be early signs of cancer, but too small or subtle to be felt. The use of mammography has greatly enhanced the ability to detect breast cancers at earlier stages. **Full field digital mammography** shows great promise in the fight against breast cancer.

What is Full Field **Digital Mammography?**

Digital mammography uses computers and specially designed digital detectors to produce an image that can be displayed on a high-resolution computer monitor, transmitted and stored just like computer files.

From a patient's point of view, having a digital mammogram is very much like having a conventional screen-film mammogram. Both film-based and digital mammography use compression and x-rays to create clear images of the inside of the breast. During all mammography exams, the technologist positions the patient to image the breast from different angles and compresses the breast with a paddle to obtain optimal image quality.

Unlike film-based mammography, digital mammograms produce images that appear on the technologist's monitor in a matter of seconds. There is no waiting for film to develop, which can mean a shorter time spent in the breast imaging suite.

The Benefits of **Digital Mammography**

Unlike other parts of the body, the breast is composed mainly of soft tissue. When breast tissue is x-rayed, it creates an image that looks something like a smoky haze, making it difficult to see tiny “spots,” called microcalcifications, and other subtle signs of early cancer.

With digital mammography, the radiologist reviews electronic images of the breast, using special high-resolution monitors. The physician can adjust the brightness, change contrast, and zoom in for close ups of specific areas of interest. Being able to manipulate images is one of the main benefits of digital technology.

Another convenience of digital mammography over film-based systems is it can greatly reduce the need for retakes due to over or under exposure. This potentially saves additional time and reduces your exposure to x-rays.

Because they are electronic, digital mammography images can be transmitted quickly across a network. Digital images can also be easily stored, copied without any loss of information, and transmitted and received in a more streamlined manner, eliminating dependence on only one set of “original” films.

Image quality is the key to early detection for patients with breast cancer. Rush Memorial Hospital's digital mammography machine is equipped with computer aided detection software which provides a full field digital view of the breast. This state of the art machine is installed in our mammogram suite that was specially designed with a spa-like atmosphere for the comfort of the ladies needing this service and provides a respite from a potentially stressful situation.



Early Detection is the Key

Rush Memorial Hospital's primary goal is to deliver the highest quality care to our patients. With the Aspire(TM) Digital Mammography system developed by FUJIFILM Medical Systems U.S.A., Inc., local women have access to high quality digital mammography screening. Aspire provides enhanced image clarity that enables extraordinary detail of potential abnormalities that not only assists in more accurate and reliable diagnoses, but also results in enhanced clinician productivity.

Mammography screening is still recognized as the most effective tool available for the early detection of breast cancer. Rush Memorial Hospital is proud to provide the women of Rush County and surrounding areas with this proven screening technology to identify cancers early when they are most treatable.

Remember . . .

an annual mammogram
is one of your best defenses
against breast cancer.

If you have not yet scheduled an appointment to receive your yearly screening mammogram, we encourage you to do so.

Call your family doctor to get a mammogram ordered today.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call.

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